

Arch Widdison & Ellen Scott

Widdison's name is also inscribed in the hearts of a local fifth-grade class. Marlene Bodrero, a teacher at Valley View Elementary School, said she loves teaching social studies. "They say if it's red-white-and-blue, it's down in my room."

She was looking for a way to help her students identify with the fallen heroes of war. "A lot of times we think about these people, these names, and we don't give them a heartbeat."

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Bodrero had years earlier read a story about Scott Widdison in a local newspaper. Something in his mischievous, boyish grin made her remember him. And that's when she approached the Widdisons to see if her class could adopt their hero.

So, recently the Widdisons played show-and-tell with their family slides, showing students images of the son who hiked himself

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into the air on an automobile jack, the mechanically minded teenager who wanted to take a date to a drive-in on a road grader. Describing Scott's father, Arch, during the program, Bodrero said, "He was a proud father. He was just like on Eagle Scout day."

Bodrero's students decided to place a potted plant with a red, white and blue bow at the foot of Scott's flagpole and will send a personalized wreath to rest under his name at the Vietnam monument.

But Elon Widdison said Scott's story has another chapter.

She got a call this weekend from a local serviceman who had purchased a remembrance bracelet printed with Scott's name from the League of Families. The group is dedicated to keeping alive the memory of soldiers missing in action. Mrs. Widdison said she would be doing

disson said her family decided to join after they had made peace with Scott's tragic death, to support others through the period of not knowing.

The caller wanted to know more about her son, so that he would feel better about his coming military tour of duty to Honduras.

"I feel that if I wear this and I know more about Scott, I'll feel better," Mrs. Widdison said she was told. It was the kind of request a proud mother felt privileged to honor.

A peace rosebush flourishes this Memorial Day weekend at the foot of Scott's flagpole, a tribute to the tall, former LDS missionary who never returned from Vietnam. "We fly his flag day and night, year-round, unless we're not home," his mother said. "We talk about him all the time. We laugh. We remember all the good things, the crazy things — and he was a nut. We speculate all the time about what he would be doing now."



PHOTOGRAPHY/ RAVELL CALL  
Elon and Arch Widdison stand in their front yard in West Bountiful near the flagpole that they dedicated to their son, Scott, who was killed in Vietnam.